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# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

**722**  
respondents

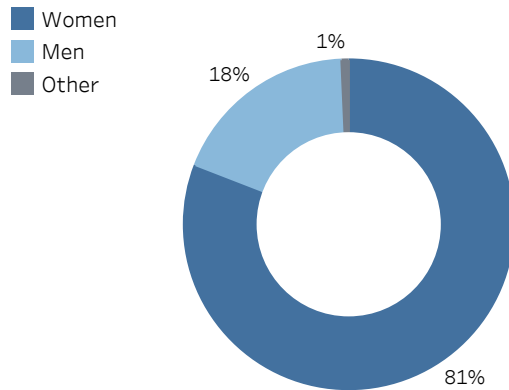
**124**  
17% from FB

**390**  
54% from FHD

**182**  
25% from FHSS

**26**  
4% from FST

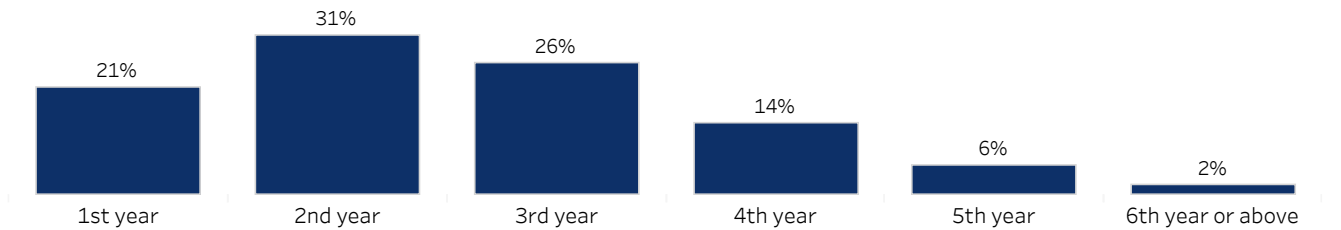
## By Gender (n = 722)



## By Degree Level (n = 722)



## By Year of Study (n = 715)



## By Program Type (n = 722)

**87%** Course-based

**9%** Research-based with supervisor/advisor

**4%** Research-based without supervisor/advisor

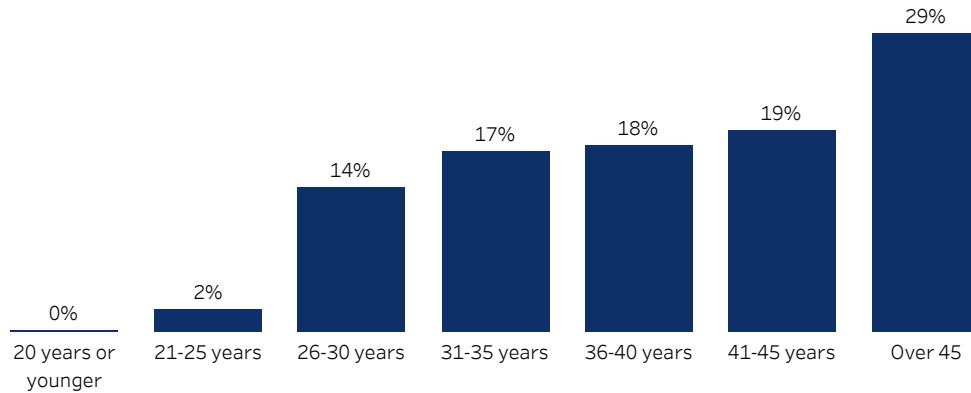
## By Program Name

Master of Nursing	234	32%
Master of Arts	115	16%
Master of Counselling	113	16%
Master of Business Admin	110	15%
Master of Education	47	7%
Master of Health Studies	43	6%
Master of Science	26	4%
Doctor of Educ in Distance Ed	20	3%
Doctorate in Bus Admin	14	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

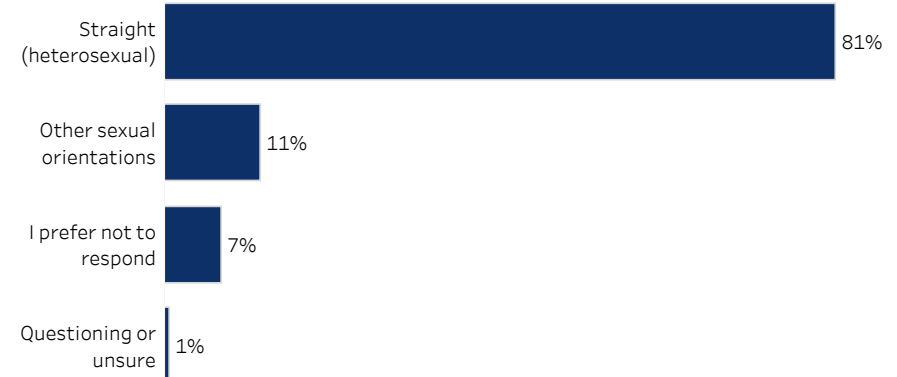
## Age Groups (n = 494)

In what age group are you?



## Sexual Orientation (n = 496)

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?



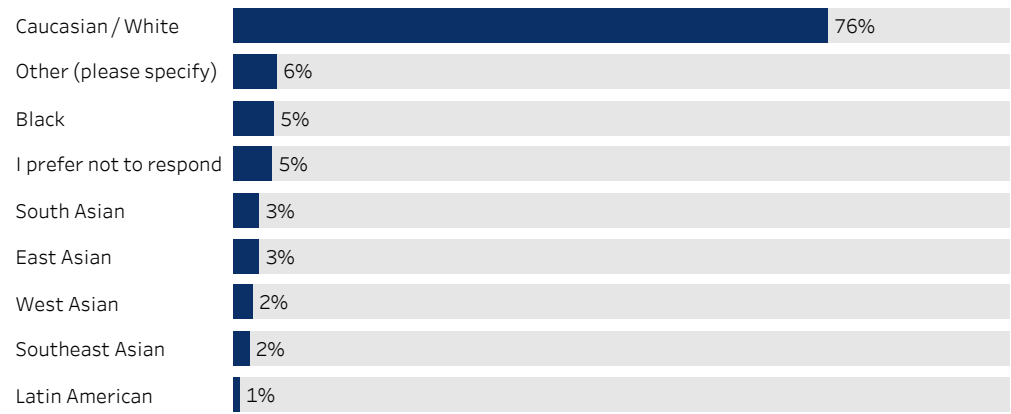
## Indigenous Status (n = 489)

Do you self-identify with, or have ancestry as a Canadian Indigenous person (status or non-status Indian, Métis or Inuit)?



## Ethnicity (n = 493)

Please indicate whether you consider yourself to be a member of one or more of the following categories. Choose all that apply.



## Marital Status

(n = 495)

**64%**

Married (and not separated)

## Dependants

(n = 491)

**56%**

living with  
1 or more dependants

## Disabilities or Impairments

(n = 473)

**35%**

self-identify as having  
disabilities or impairments  
(Including mental health-related conditions)

## Citizenship Status

(n = 496)

**99%**

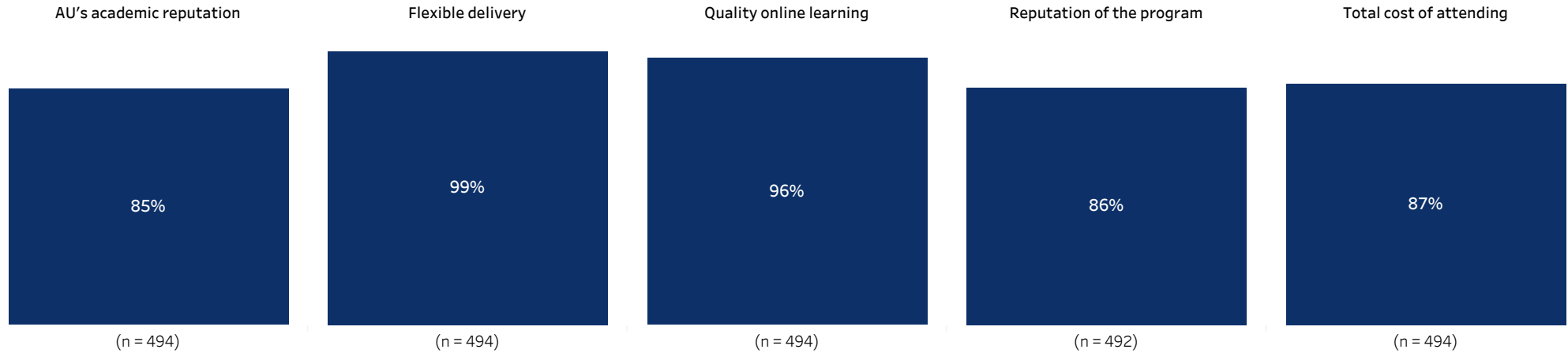
Canadian Citizen or Permanent  
Resident

# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

## Decision Factors

How important were each of the following factors in your decision to attend Athabasca University?

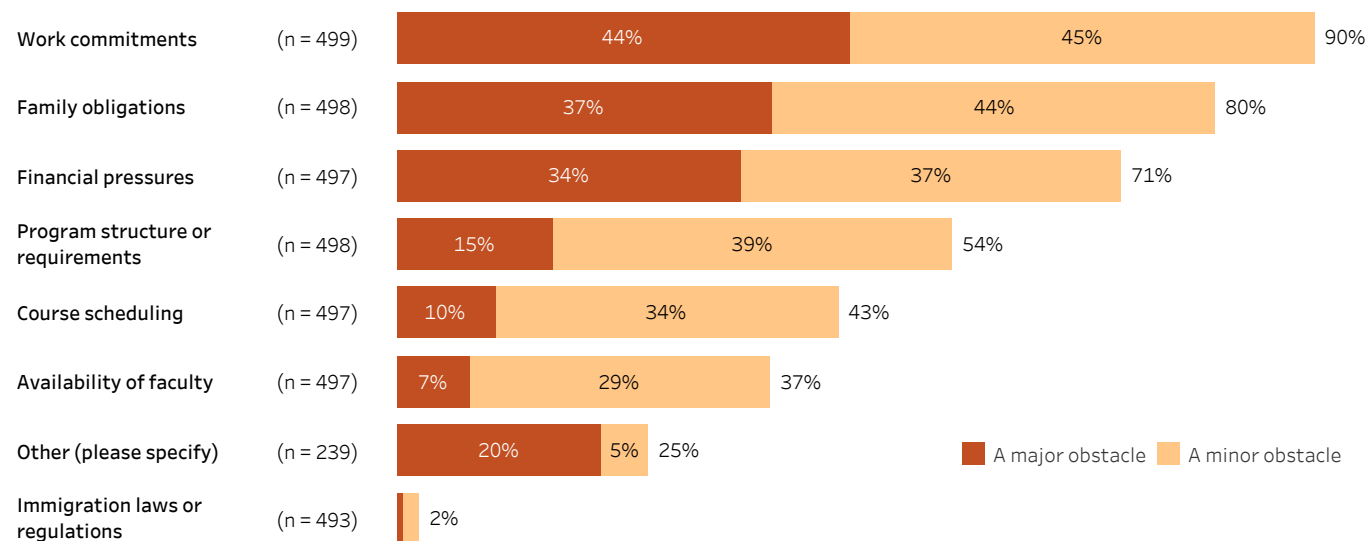
Percentage of respondents that selected "Somewhat important" or "Very important".



## Barriers to Academic Progress

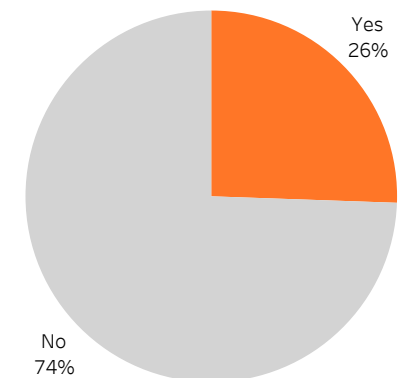
Rate the extent to which the following factors are an obstacle to your academic progress.

Percentage of respondents that selected "A minor obstacle" or "A major obstacle".



Has the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the progression of your program or studies?

(n = 446)

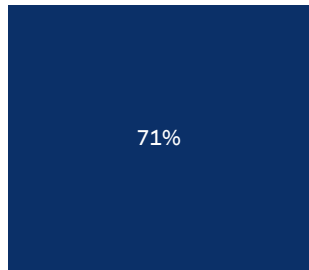


# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

## If you were to start your graduate / professional career again

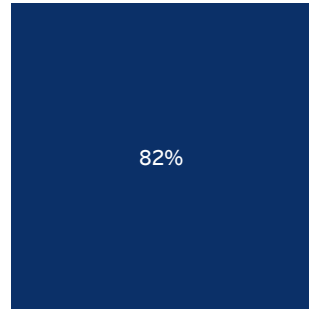
Percentage of respondents that selected "Probably" or "Definitely"

Would you select this same university?



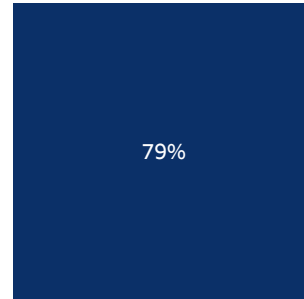
(n = 719)

Would you select the same field of study?



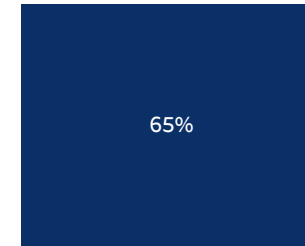
(n = 719)

Would you recommend this university to someone considering your program?



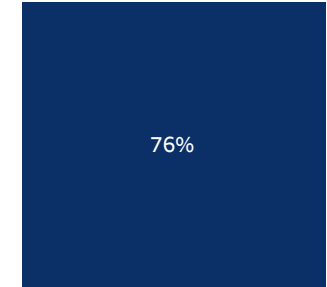
(n = 716)

Would you recommend this university to someone in another field?



(n = 716)

Would you select the same faculty supervisor / advisor?



(n = 59)

## Experiences at the University

Overall, how would you rate the quality of...

Your overall experience at this university

3.7 / 5

(n = 500)

Your graduate / professional program at this university

3.7

(n = 498)

Your academic experience at this university

3.8

(n = 501)

Your student life experience at this university

2.9

(n = 495)

## Well-Being

Considering your student experiences so far at this institution, how would you rate your overall well-being?

3.5 / 5

(n = 490)

I feel like a part of the community (feel part of a group, or share a common goal, interest, or values) at the institution

71%

Agree or Strongly agree  
(n = 497)

I feel like a valued member of my department / faculty

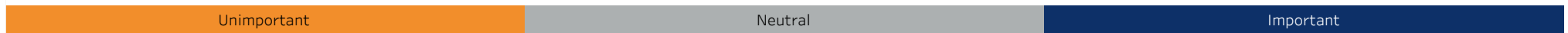
69%

Agree or Strongly agree  
(n = 494)

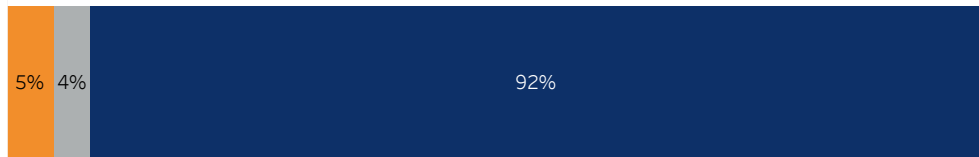
# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

# 89%

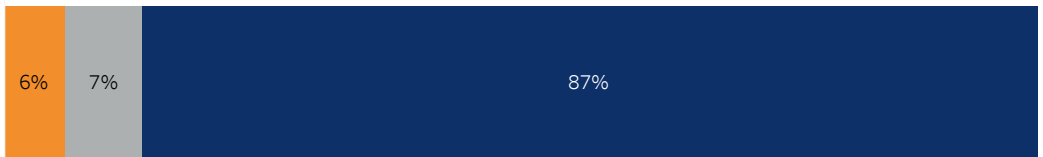
Satisfied or Very satisfied  
with Athabasca University's  
online learning environment  
(n = 493)



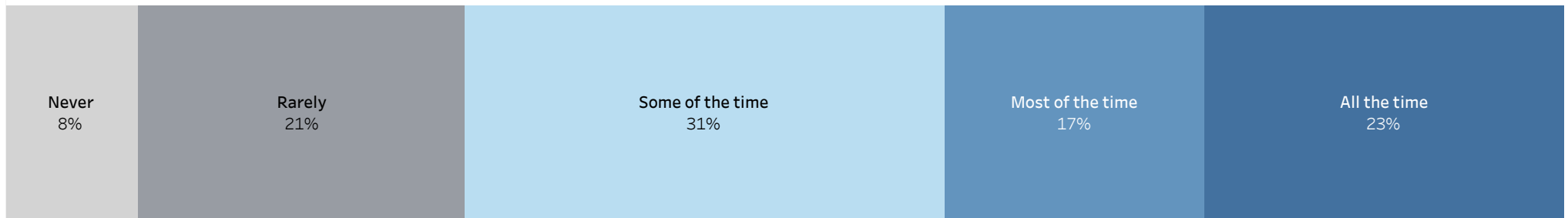
How important is it to you that all your learning resources be available to you online? (n = 495)



How important is it to you that you do not have to separately purchase learning resources? (n = 495)



How frequently do you supplement your online learning resources with print? (n = 495)



# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

## Average Rating

(On a scale of 1 to 5)

Satisfaction with Program, Quality of Interactions, and Coursework			University Resources		
Please rate the following dimensions of your program.			Please rate the following university resources based on the quality you have experienced while using them.		
The intellectual quality of the faculty	(n = 694)	4.2	Library facilities	(n = 456)	3.6
Overall quality of my relationship with my supervisor / advisor	(n = 57)	4.1	Registrarial processes	(n = 386)	3.5
Relationship of program content to my research / professional goals	(n = 687)	3.9	Indigenous Student Center	(n = 27)	3.4
The intellectual quality of my fellow students	(n = 689)	3.9	Information technology services	(n = 315)	3.3
Availability of area courses I needed to complete my program	(n = 690)	3.8	Academic support services (Writing Center, etc.)	(n = 201)	3.3
Opportunities for student collaboration or teamwork	(n = 691)	3.8	Student government office	(n = 65)	3.2
Overall quality of graduate level teaching by faculty	(n = 692)	3.7	Disability / Access services office	(n = 57)	3.2
The relationship between faculty and graduate students	(n = 691)	3.6	Mental health care services (Mental Health and Psychological support)	(n = 123)	2.9
Support received from non-academic staff members (Dept / Program admin, tech, etc..)	(n = 688)	3.5	Student counseling & resource centre	(n = 103)	2.8
Amount of coursework	(n = 691)	3.5	Financial aid office	(n = 187)	2.7
Opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary work	(n = 680)	3.3	Career services	(n = 94)	2.3
Quality of academic advising and guidance	(n = 690)	3.2	<b>Research Experience</b>		
Opportunities to take coursework outside my own department	(n = 677)	3.1	How would you rate the quality of the support and opportunities you received in these areas?		
Advice on the availability of financial support	(n = 681)	2.8	Conducting independent research since starting your graduate program	(n = 301)	3.3
			Faculty guidance in formulating a research topic	(n = 346)	3.2
			Training in research methods before beginning your own research	(n = 369)	3.2
			Training / support on research tools specific to your research topic since starting your graduate program	(n = 363)	3.1
			Research collaboration with one or more faculty members	(n = 43)	3.0

# Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2022

## What has been the most positive part of your study experience in your program up to now?

Accomplishing goals that previously felt unreachable. As someone who lives 4 hours away from any major city and who juggles work and family life with school, online flexible learning has broken down barriers for my access to graduate school.

I like how the learning is cumulative, building on each week. My learning has been very practical to my professional roles and responsibilities. And I love that I can do this all online.

The ability to complete nearly all of my course work asynchronously, fitting my academic schedule around my life and work/family needs. This makes graduate school achievable because it's in an online format - I could not consider a program requiring in-person attendance.

The group study courses. I love that Athabasca is available to rural Canadians and to people studying mid-career - it is an extremely interesting group of people I enjoy interacting with. I've also enjoyed the professors immensely - wonderfully intellectually curious people who make themselves available. It's appreciated.

The study experience at AU has transformed my thinking and given me the language I need to express myself effectively in my private and professional life.

## What has been the most negative part of your study experience in your program up to now?

As an older student, some times I have had to spend quite a bit of time teaching myself how to use software (PowerPoint has changed a lot since 2006), so I can then complete a project, assignment, etc. I also find that I can simply not dedicate the amount of time that any week's work deserves, given full time work and attempting to balance everything.

Disorganized course syllabuses, course study guides/information not directly related to exams, minimal support from instructors to succeed in courses (for the most part), lack of straight forward answers from instructors related to course expectations and assignments.

Had to take a small break from formal studies due to the financial pressures of the program.

I feel alone doing my program. Since I do not have to attend any meeting even online, it is very easy to lose motivations.

When the course content is not up to date and brings confusion.

## If you could make one change in the program to improve the experience of students, what would you suggest?

More flexible timeframes for many of the courses. The students on student loans are forced to complete the course within the short semester and cannot get extensions without forfeiting student loan funds and or forfeiting good grades.

More opportunities to connect with other students in the program. Organized (online) interaction. Also mentor programs for students to receive advice from other students.

Provide the option for e-text or print resources. The e-text does not allow access to some important content that the print resources provide.

Update the curriculum content to reflect the most recent research and the expectations given to students. Course readings were outdated and minimal

Using the same platform between courses (some use teams, moodle, google meets, etc). Consistency of platforms for interaction would make it easier to transition and communicate with peers between classes